

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated March 16, 2006, pending claims 1-20 were considered and rejected. Pending claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,913,307 to Takata ("Takata") in view of U.S. Patent No.5,157,901 to Okamoto ("Okamoto").

Independent claims 1 and 9 have been amended to recite that the perimeter has an inner and outer edge and that the knurls extend outwardly from the inner edge to the outer edge and are offset from a radial position. Independent claim 16 has been amended to recite that the knurls extending outwardly from an inner edge of the tapered perimeter adjacent to said opening to an outer edge of said perimeter and are offset from a radial position. No new matter has been introduced by these amendments. Support for the amendments can be found, for example, at paragraph 0012 and Fig. 2.

Arguments Supporting The Withdrawal Of §103 Rejection

Pending claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Takata in view of Okamoto. Applicants submit that neither Takata, Okamoto, nor the combination of Takata and Okamoto disclose, suggest, or teach each and every limitation of independent claims 1, 9, and 16 of the subject application as amended.

Takata teaches an easily openable heat-sealed packing container. (Takata, col. 4, lines 21-22). By pressing downwardly, a heat-seal ring 9, a multilayer lid member and a flange portion 4 of the container member 3 are heat-sealed together, and circular depressions 6 and 7 are formed simultaneously. (Takata, col. 4, lines 39-43). Takata fails to teach, disclose or suggest a welding tip comprising a cylindrical body having a perimeter, the perimeter including a

plurality of knurls, wherein the knurls extend outwardly from an inner edge to an outer edge and are offset from a radial position as recited in independent claims 1 and 9 of the subject application (as amended herein, emphasis added). Further, Takata fails to teach, disclose or suggest a welding tip comprising a cylindrical body having an opening defined by a heatable tapered perimeter, said perimeter including a plurality of knurls, said knurls extending outwardly from an inner edge of said tapered perimeter adjacent to said opening to an outer edge of said perimeter and are offset from a radial position as recited in independent claim 16 of the subject application (as amended herein, emphasis added).

Okamoto fails to cure the shortcomings of Takata. Okamoto teaches a method for sealing a retort container. (Okamoto, col. 2, line 38). A knurled seal 6 at a flange portion 3 results from the use of a hot plate having an embossed portion 20 of a sealing plane 18. (Okamoto, col. 3, lines 16-23). Okamoto fails to teach, disclose or suggest a welding tip comprising a cylindrical body having a perimeter, the perimeter including a plurality of knurls, wherein the knurls extend outwardly from an inner edge to an outer edge and are offset from a radial position as recited in independent claims 1 and 9 of the subject application (as amended herein). Additionally, Okamoto fails to teach, disclose or suggest a welding tip comprising a cylindrical body having an opening defined by a heatable tapered perimeter, said perimeter including a plurality of knurls, said knurls extending outwardly from an inner edge of said tapered perimeter adjacent to said opening to an outer edge of said perimeter and are offset from a radial position as recited in independent claim 16 of the subject application (as amended herein).

Finally, combining Takata with Okamoto does not overcome the shortcomings of Takata and Okamoto individually. The combination of Takata and Okamoto fails to teach, disclose or suggest a perimeter including a plurality of knurls, wherein the knurls extend outwardly from an

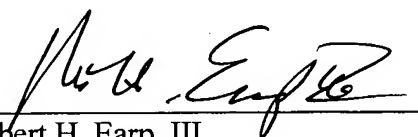
inner edge to an outer edge and are offset from a radial position as recited in independent claims 1 and 9 of the subject application (as amended herein). Further, the combination of Takata and Okamoto fails to teach, disclose or suggest a welding tip comprising a cylindrical body having an opening defined by a heatable tapered perimeter, said perimeter including a plurality of knurls, said knurls extending outwardly from an inner edge of said tapered perimeter adjacent to said opening to an outer edge of said perimeter and are offset from a radial position as recited in independent claim 16 of the subject application (as amended herein).

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection of claims 1, 9 and 16 and an indication that such claims are allowable. As claims 2-6, 10-13, and 17-19 depend either directly or indirectly, from independent claims 1, 9, and 16 and add additional limitations thereto, the arguments above equally apply to those claims. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the §103(a) rejection be withdrawn and submit that claims 2-6, 10-13, and 17-19 are now in condition for allowance.

In light of the foregoing, Applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance, and accordingly, respectfully requests the allowance thereof.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 6-16-06


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